

SENATE BILL 2776

By Herron

AN ACT to name a bridge spanning Cedar Creek on State Route 128 in Perry County in honor of the late Esquire Fred Ashley Howell and the late Tilda Hildren Culp Howell.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those exemplary public servants who contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean could be more deserving of this honor than the late Esquire Fred Ashley Howell and the late Tilda Hildren Culp Howell of Perry County; and

WHEREAS, Esquire Fred Ashley Howell and Tilda Hildren Culp Howell were extraordinary, outstanding, and exemplary Perry Countians who demonstrated longstanding service to Cedar Creek's citizenry in particular and to the Perry County community in general; and

WHEREAS, Esquire Fred Ashley Howell served admirably as a Perry County Magistrate from 1942 until his demise in 1955, during which tenure Perry Countians were benefited by his role, along with his distinguished magistrate colleagues, in the implementation of a manufacturing plant at the advent of rural electrification and the enhancement of school building construction; and

WHEREAS, when he passed from this world to a far better existence in 1955, Perry County lost a valuable and trustworthy servant of the people; he was also a devoted husband and father and a true friend who was always ready to serve where his services were needed; and

WHEREAS, Esquire Fred Ashley Howell was an entrepreneur, proprietor of Howell Chevrolet Dealership, mill proprietor, school board member, and co-owner, with his loyal and supportive wife, Tilda Hildren Culp Howell, of Howell's Twin Oakes Farm, where they employed

innovative farming techniques and demonstrated their love for Perry County's beautiful land and water resources in varied topography; and

WHEREAS, named for its "everlasting spring" above which grew twin oak trees, Twin Oakes Farm became part of the Howell family's legacy when Fred Howell's maternal grandparents, Joseph and Nancy Bunch, gave 200 acres to their daughter, Mary, as a wedding present when she married, John E. Howell; and

WHEREAS, after the death of Fred's parents, John and Mary Howell, Fred and Tilda Culp Howell became the second owners of Twin Oakes Farm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Howell tilled 590 acres and raised clover, corn, soybeans, milo, and cattle until 1949, when the farm passed into the hands of Tilda Culp Howell and their daughter, Elizabeth Howell Tiller, who continues to own and operate the 127-year-old Howell's Twin Oakes Farm today; and

WHEREAS, Tilda Hildren Culp Howell was a faithful spouse, a loving mother, and a dedicated educator who, during a professional career of forty-four years, served with distinction as a principal, teacher, and librarian, primarily at the Cedar Creek Schools of Perry County; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable lady touched the lives of thousands of students during an illustrious career that spanned the spectrum between teaching a one-room class of eight grades to teaching at Linden Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a dedicated teacher who helped mold the future of Perry County, Mrs. Tilda Hildren Culp Howell was also a shining example of excellence in scholarship and character, and she evinced love for everyone; and

WHEREAS, when she passed away in 2000 at the venerable age of 99, Mrs. Howell was Perry County's oldest retired teacher and oldest citizen; and

WHEREAS, the Perry County Commission has memorialized this body to name a certain bridge that lies in contiguous proximity to land that was owned by Tilda Hildren Culp Howell to permanently commemorate Mr. and Mrs. Howell's extensive community service, camaraderie, and leadership in improving the living conditions of their fellow citizens in myriad ways with humility; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal;  
now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the bridge spanning Cedar Creek on State Route 128 within contiguous proximity to Howell's Twin Oaks Farm in Perry County is hereby designated as the "Esquire Fred Ashley Howell and Tilda Hildren Culp Howell Memorial Bridge" to honor the positive contributions and legacy of Mr. and Mrs. Howell as a true son and daughter of wonderful Perry County and its rich heritage.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Esquire Fred Ashley Howell and Tilda Hildren Culp Howell Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.